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BOROUGH OF LYDD

KENT

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ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

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LONDON SCHOOL OF HYGIENE AND TROPICAL MEDICINE
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BOROUGH OF LYDD (KENT)

ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1956

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the ear 1956.

According to the estimate of the Registrar General, the mid-year Home Population of the Borough was 3,120; compared with the population of the previous year, there was an increase by 430, due chiefly to an increase in the number of the Armed Forces stationed in the Borough.

The number of live-births was 41, i.e. 20 less than the previous year and the crude birth-rate was accordingly low, i.e. 13.14. When this rate is adjusted by the Registrar General's Comparability Factor, which takes account of age and sex distribution based on a standard population, the adjusted rate becomes 16.43; that for England and Wales was 15.7.

The number of still-births was 1, giving a rate of 23.81 per 1,000 total (live and still) births; the rate for England and Wales was 23.0. Adequate ante-natal supervision, and skilled obstetric attention are essential safe-guards against a high rate.

There were two male infant deaths, compared with none the previous year. These were due to (i) Prematurity complicated by respiratory failure and (ii)Broncho-pneumonia. The infant mortality rate was therefore 48.78, compared with 23.8 for England and Wales. These figures are, however, too small for statistical comparisons, as a small increase or decrease in the number of births or deaths would influence the rate disproportionately.

There were no deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth or Abortion which is always gratifying to record; nor were there any cases of Puerperal Sepsis (Child-bed Fever), which was a cause of much illness and mortality throughout the Country before the introduction of the Sulphonamides and Antibiotics.

The total number of deaths from all causes was 23, (10 male 13 female) and the crude death-rate was 7.37; when adjusted by the Registrar General's Comparability Factor as for births, the adjusted rate becomes 8.99, which is lower than that of 11.7 for England and Wales.

Approximately 50% of those deaths were due to Heart and Vascular Diseases which are natural causes of death amongst the aged.

There were four deaths from Cancer. The great improvements in modern surgical techniques and radio-therapy which can cure the disease if not too far advanced, are commonly off-set by late diagnosis often due to procrastination by the patients in seeking medical advice.

Two of those deaths were caused by Cancer of the Lung, both males, aged 74 and 76 years. The alleged relationship between smoking and this disease is causing much anxiety today. It is difficult to reconcile the fact that it is a primary cause with the fact that the great majority of smokers die natural deaths in old age from other causes. It is reasonable, however, to allege that the excessive inhalation of tobacco smoke would be a cause of chronic irritation in the lungs, which in time might become

malignant. Similarly the inhalation of air in atmospheres gros fouled by by-products from the combustion of petrol and oil and other impurities, could equally be a contributory factor.

The other causes of death were miscellaneous and there was no unusual incidence.

There was no death due to the Infectious Diseases, including Tuberculosis. Most of the infectious diseases caused by bacteria can now be successfully prevented or treated; for example, Typhoid or Paratyphoid Fevers, Bacillary Dysentery, Food Poisoning, Bacterial Meningitis, the Bacterial Pneumonias, Scarlet Fever, Erysipelas, and Puerperal Sepsis, are outstanding examples of endemic diseases that in former years were major causes of death. Others can be prevented by immunisation; for example, Diphtheria, Smallpox, Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers and Tetanus are excellent examples; there is firm ground for hope that immunisation against Poliomyelitis will be as equally effective.

Virus infections, however, constitute a more complex problem; for example, these which cause Meningitis and Encephalitis which clinically are easily confused with non-paralytic Poliomyelitis; and these which cause the atypical pneumonias and febrile illnesses with catarrh in the upper respiratory tract. Although most of these illnesses per se are not dangerous to life they cause much absenteeism from employment and school. A Virological Service has been established within the Public Health Laboratory Service to study these viruses.

Throughout the year, the Borough was on the whole free from Infectious Disease; the only cases that were notified were four of measles and six of whooping cough. Outbreaks of measles and whooping cough commonly occur every second year when there is a sufficient number of susceptible children, and it is not possible to prevent their spread owing to the fact that both are very highly infectious for several days before their typical signs and symptoms identify them; during this period, the children usually continue to attend school where class-rooms are ideal for their dissemination.

It is hoped, however, that it will be possible to prevent whooping cough by immunisation. Modern vaccines have been approved by the Ministry of Health and late in 1957 - 58, will be available in the Child Welfare Clinic which serves the Borough.

18 cases of Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia were notified. As secondary Pneumonias are not notifiable, the total number of Pneumonias is not known. There was, however, only one death, which is an index of the advance of modern treatment. Before discovery of the Sulphonamides in 1936 and the use of Penicillin in 1941, followed by other powerful Antibiotics, there was no specific treatment for the Bacterial Pneumonias which were then a major cause of death.

Regarding Tuberculosis no new cases of the Respiratory type were notified, which is very satisfactory, and substantiates the report from the Mass Radiography Service in 1955 when no active cases were found, that there is no reservoir of infection in the Borough.

As will be noted from the appendix table, one case of non-respiratory Tuberculosis was notified; enquiries failed to indicate the source of infection but is improbable that the source of infection was from the milk supplies to the Borough, which are all designated.

No deaths from Tuberculosis occurred. The modern

treatment of Tuberculosis has made great progress and is reflected in the declining mortality from this disease.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you for your interest and assistance in the work of the Department and the staff for their efficient co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. MARSHALL

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

SECTION A.

SATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

FOR 1956

Area:- 11,932 acres.

Registrar-General's Estimate of the Resident Population	...	...	3,120
Number of Inhabited Houses According to the Rate Books	...	...	1,049
Rateable Value	...	...	£38,025
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	£152.

Social Conditions

Lydd is a very ancient and historical Borough being mentioned in Saxon Charters from 740 onwards and is a limb of the Cinque Ports. It is predominantly agricultural being chiefly concerned in sheep and cattle raising and arable farming. There are also extensive beach quarrying and crushing plants within the District. Of the Sub-Districts, Dungeness is devoted to the fishing industry and Greatstone, where there is a large holiday camp, and Lydd-on-Sea cater chiefly for holiday-makers. Lydd also contains a large permanent Army Artillery Practice Camp and a proportion of the civilians are employed there. There is almost no unemployment and by and large social conditions are satisfactory.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

	Total	M.	F.		Lydd Borough	England and Wales
Live Births	41	21	20	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	13.14	15.7
(a) Legitimate	38	20	18			
(b) Illegitimate	3	1	2			
Stillbirths	1	1	-	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	23.81	23.0
(a) Legitimate	1	1	-			
(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-			
Deaths	23	10	13	Death rate per 1,000 resident population	7.37	11.7
Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth or Abortion.	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births.	-	Not available
Deaths of Infants Under One Year of Age	2	2	-			
(a) Legitimate	2	2	-			
(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-			

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	48.78	23.8
Rate re legitimate infants	52.63	
Rate re illegitimate infants	-	
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	4	
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	-	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	-	
Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	

The following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year 1956.

Whooping Cough	4
Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia	18
Measles	6

CAUSES OF DEATH IN LYDD BOROUGH

DURING 1956

ALL CAUSES	Males	Fem
	10	1
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	
3. Syphilitic disease	-	
4. Diphtheria	-	
5. Whooping Cough	-	
6. Meningococcal infections	-	
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	
8. Measles	-	
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	-	
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	
16. Diabetes	-	
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	1	
18. Coronary disease, angina	1	
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	
20. Other heart disease	1	
21. Other circulatory disease	-	
22. Influenza	-	
23. Pneumonia	1	
24. Bronchitis	-	
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	-	
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	-	
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	-	
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	
31. Congenital malformations	-	
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	
34. All other accidents	-	
35. Suicide	-	
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	

Immunisation against Diphtheria, 1956

The following is a return of the number of children under the age of 15 years on 31st December, 1956, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1942).

Year of Birth	1941	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster) 1952 - 1956.	1	27	15	7	26	29	48	43	36	48	33	46	40	36	2	437
1951 or earlier	22	20	16	23	18	2	7	6	12	3	-	-	-	-	-	129

Immunisation against Diphtheria and Vaccination against Smallpox, 1956.

The following is a return of (A) the number of children who were immunised against Diphtheria and (B) the number of persons who were vaccinated against Smallpox, during the year ended 31st December, 1956.

(A) Diphtheria Immunisation

Year of Birth	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	Total
Primary Inoculations	2	30	2	1	1	3	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	42
Re-inforcing inoculations	-	-	-	-	1	29	6	-	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	40

(B) Vaccination

																Before 1942	
Primary Vaccination	31	19	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	3	57
Re-Vaccination	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY 1956

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths				Total Cases on Register			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	2	1	1
1 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
5 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
15 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
25 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
35 ...	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-				
45 ...	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-				
55 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
Total	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-				

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis of patients who had not been notified as suffering from that disease.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water Supply.

The Folkestone and District Water Company supplies the Borough from shallow wells sunk in the shingle and sand of the Denge Marsh and the supply has been adequate. Quarterly samples of this water have been of satisfactory quality.

During the year, a 3" water main of a total length of 2,136 yards was extended from Belgar Lane along Romney Road to Hammond's Corner to serve a number of properties.

98% of the dwelling-houses in the Borough have main supply.

2. Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The sewerage system for the drainage of the post-war housing estate continues to operate satisfactorily.

Two new sludge beds were constructed with earth-retaining banks. No other developments were effected during the year.

3. Refuse Collection and Disposal

A weekly collection of house refuse was made by the Council's workmen and the refuse is deposited at an authorised tip in the outskirts of the Borough by the Denge Marsh Road.

Special collections are made from a Holiday Camp and from Ferryfield Airport.

SECTION D.

Housing

Ten new houses were built by the Council during the year. Since the war, a total of 118 Council houses have been built.

(a)	Number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health and Housing Acts	16
	Number of houses found to be in any respect unfit for human habitation	16
	Number of houses found to be unfit for human habitation and incapable of repair at reasonable expense	-
	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied by informal action	16
	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	-
	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	-
	Number of houses demolished	-
	Number of houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 ...	1
	Number of dwelling houses reconditioned and undertakings cancelled	-

(b) Improvements and Conversions

Ten applications for improvement grants were made and all were approved. 1 application for grant in respect of the conversion of the former Isolation Hospital into three flats. Total number of dwellings 13. Gross cost of Approved Works £4,620.16.8. Gross cost of all works £5,384. 0. 6. Gross amount of grants made £1,770. Apart from the conversion of the Isolation Hospital into three self-contained flats the improvements were mainly the provision of hotwater systems, bathrooms, improved drainage, etc.

(c) Proposals submitted for dealing with unfit houses in slum clearance plans.

The Council intend to continue their present policy of dealing with individual houses as they arise.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

(1) Milk Supplies

(a) Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949. (Part 111)

No. of registered Distributors	...	...	2
No. of registered Dairies	...	...	1

(b) Licences Granted under Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949, excluding licences granted by Food and Drugs authorities in relation to milk pasteurised or sterilised on the premises of the applicant.

	Dealers	Supplementary
Pasteurised ...	1	1
Sterilised ...	1	-
Tuberculin Tested (raw)	1	-
Accredited ...	-	-

(c) Milk Sampling.

	Samples Taken	No. of unsatisfactory samp.
Pasteurised ...	4	-
Tuberculin Tested ...	2	-
Sterilised ...	-	-
Biological examination of raw milks ...	-	-

(2) Food Premises

Regular inspections of these premises were made throughout the year and all maintained satisfactory conditions of hygiene. Several improvements were effected by informal action.

(3) Ice Cream

All the ice cream sold in the Borough is pre-wrapped and arrangements for storage and serving were satisfactory.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
umber killed	-	-	-	-	6
umber inspected	-	-	-	1	6
l diseases except Tuberculosis					
ole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
rcases of which some part or gan was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
rcentage of the number spected affected with disease her than tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-
berculosis only					
ole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
rcases of which some part or gan was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
rcentage of the number inspected fected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

Inspections for purposes of provision as to health (including inspection by Public Health Inspector).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	6	-	-
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	11	11	-	-
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	-	-	-	-
	17	17	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Found	Re edied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	Number c cases in which Prosecut were Institut
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)...	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

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